

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

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R 141609Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2206

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, FR

SUBJECT STOCKHOLM MEETING OF SOCIALIST LEADERS ON PORTUGAL

REF: STATE 188416

L. WE MET AUGUST 13 WITH MICHEL THAUVIN, ASSISTANT TO
THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, TO
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REVIEW STOCKHOLM MEETING AND PSF/PCF DIFFERENCES ON

PORTUGUESE ISSUE (SEPTEL). HE IS ACCOMPANYING ON AUGUST 14 DOMINIQUE TADDEI, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT, WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED BY THE PSF TO MAKE A ONE-WEEK URGENT MISSION TO THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL TO GATHER INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND SPECIFICALLY TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE PSP.

2. ACCORDING TO THAUVIN, THE "FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT COMMITTEE CREATED AT STOCKHOLM MEETING HAS NOT EVEN BEGUN TO OPERATE AND CONSEQUENTLY HAS NOT MADE ANY FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO PORTUGAL OR PSP. FIRST MEETING WAS PLANNED FOR EARLY SEPTEMBER, BUT THIS MAY BE POSTPONED SOMEWHAT.

3. REGARDING WHAT TYPE OF AID MIGHT BE ENVISAGED, THAUVIN SAID: "FINANCIAL AID AND THE LESS POLITICAL THE BETTER." HE EXPLAINED INVESTMENTS TO IMPROVE THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION WOULD BE LESS VISIBLE, AND FUNNELED THROUGH THE EC OR SOME OTHER MULTILATERAL GROUPING LESS POLITICALLY RISKY. HE SAID BILATERAL AID FROM THE PSF TO THE PSP IS NOT EVEN BEING CONSIDERED; THE PSF HAS VERY LIMITED FUNDS - AND NONE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. ONCE THERE IS AGREEMENT WITHIN THE "FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE" ON AID TO PORTUGAL, THE PSF WOULD ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT ANY PLAN OF ACTION BY TRYING TO CONVINCE GOV TO PARTICIPATE IN AID PROGRAM. BEING AN OPPOSITION PARTY, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE IT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS RESPECT.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT RESERVATIONS OF PRIME MINISTER WILSON AND OTHERS TO AID AT THIS TIME, THAUVIN WAS HOPEFUL THAT IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, PSF LEADER MITTERRAND WOULD HAVE MORE TIME THAN HE HAD IN STOCKHOLM TO TRY TO CHANGE WILSON'S MIND. IN ADDITION SITUATION IN PORTUGAL COULD EVOLVE TOWARD A BROADER-BASED GOVERNMENT, WHICH MIGHT INFLUENCE WILSON FAVORABLY.

5. COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN PARIS 20574, MITTERRAND HAS BEEN WARNED BY OTHER PS MEMBERS WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM PORTUGAL THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION COULD GET CONFIDENTIAL

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MUCH WORSE. HE HAS APPARENTLY DRAWN THE CONCLUSION THAT IN SUCH AN EVENT THE PSP WOULD STAND TO LOSE -- EITHER TO THE RIGHT OR TO THE PCP -- AND THAT EUROPEAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS ONE WAY TO HELP STAVE OFF SUCH A DETERIORATION. WHILE MITTERRAND AND THE MAJORITY OF THE PSF ARE IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE FAR LEFT FACTION OF THE PARTY (CERES) ON GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION, AND ESPECIALLY OF THE ROLE OF THE

MFA, THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THEM ON THE PRINCIPLE OF AID.

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE MORE MITTERRAND URGES GOF TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM OF AID TO PORTUGAL, THE MORE GISCARD WILL REMAIN RELUCTANT TO DO SO. WE HAVE LONG FELT THAT ONE OF GISCARD'S REASONS FOR BEING NEGATIVE AND PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS IS HIS DISLIKE FOR MITTERRAND, WHICH HE HAS APPARENTLY EXTENDED TO MARIO SOARES AND PSP.
GAMMON

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